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Mansfield Conservation Commission
Storrs, CT 06268
January 25, 2010

Commissioner Amey Marrella
State of Connecticut
Department of Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner Marrella:

The Mansfield Conservation Commission is concerned with the significant negative impact the proposed University of Connecticut Dredging of Mirror Lake may have on the watercourses and wetlands in the public water supply watershed into which Mirror Lake drains. For this reason, we request that a public hearing be held on this application.

Our reading of this application suggests the following problem to us: The very thick layer of silt that has filled much of Mirror Lake will contain a large quantity of anaerobic bacteria. These will be introduced into settling ponds to dry, which will allow aerobic processes to take over. The current plan is to pipe the residual water back into Mirror Lake. This residual water now will be heavily loaded with soluble nutrients resulting in cascading effects on ecological and biological processes. A major nitrogen plume travelling into the watershed is a very real possibility.

Please note, this is a letter from the Mansfield Conservation Commission, not our Town Council. Only our Town Council can officially communicate Town policy positions.

Sincerely yours,

Quentin Kessel, Chair
Mansfield Conservation Commission

(Please address written communications to me at 97 Codfish Falls Road, Storrs, CT 06269 and emails to me at quentinkessel@earthlink.net.)